



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

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AN: 0730063-0524

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 MC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 A-01

FBO-01 M-03 NIC-01 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-10 RSR-01 /122 W

102128

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

Z 170150Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4196

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SUBJ: APPARENT COUP ATTEMPT

REF: KABUL 4902 ✓

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0230 HOURS LOCAL JULY 17 SERIES OF "EXPLOSIONS" (PROBABLY TANK GUNFIRE) HEARD BY EMBASSY MARINE GUARDS, AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS COMING FROM DIRECTION OF ROYAL PALACE FOLLOWED BY SPORADIC SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC FIRE FOR NEXT TWO HOURS. HOME OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE (ACROSS STREET FROM REAR OF EMBASSY) SURROUNDED BY TROOPS AND MINDEF ESCORTED AWAY BY TROOPS AT ABOUT 0300 HOURS. HOME OF ABDUL WALI DAMAGED BY GUNFIRE AND NOW RPT NOW PROTECTED BY TANK AND TROOPS.

2. CURRENTLY, ABOUT 0600 HOURS LOCAL, TANKS MOVING IN CITY AREA OF ROYAL PALACE AND ARMY HELICOPTERS "PATROLLING" AREA NEAR PALACE.

3. AT THIS POINT WE FRANKLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO INVOLVED. FOR EXAMPLE HOME OF FORMER PM DAUD APPARENTLY "PROTECTED" BY TANK WHICH REMOVED AT ABOUT 0445 HOURS. TELEPHONE  
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SERVICE INOPERATIVE. RADIO AFGHANISTAN OFF AIR BUT  
BUILDING VISIBLY OCCUPIED BY ARMY OFFICERS. ARMY TANKS  
CONTINUE ENTER CITY PAST EMBASSY FROM OUTLYING ARMORED  
POST.  
NEUMANN

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